

non-existent in Australia. Two species of it occur in New Guinea (*G. dumonti* and *G. anais*). Of the former of these we meet with a beautiful representative in the present collection from the Solomons.

Again, the existence in the Solomons of two species of true *Lorius* and one of *Geoffroi* is quite sufficient to show the Papuan tendencies of the fauna; and from these facts alone Mr. Wallace has already included the Solomon Islands in his Austro-Malayan region*.

The subsequent discovery of a second species of the peculiar Papuan type *Nasiterna* in the Solomons has materially strengthened Mr. Wallace's argument from what was then known of the Psittacine fauna of these islands.

On the whole, therefore, it is manifest that the results derivable from the study of the present collection serve only to confirm the views Mr. Wallace has already put forward upon the avifauna of the Solomons, namely that these islands constitute an eastern outlier of the Papuan subregion. It need hardly be added that this makes the further investigation of their fauna still more desirable. Where such forms as *Nasiterna pusio* and *Gracula kreffti* occur, it is reasonable to expect that other brilliant representatives of Papuan types likewise remain to be discovered. It would not be surprising if even new species of *Paradisæa* were yet to be found in some of these islands, or in the adjacent lands of New Ireland or New Britain, the latter of which has already produced to us a very remarkable form of one of the most characteristic of Papuan types (*Casuarus bennettii*).

Under these circumstances, I trust that our Corresponding Member Mr. Krefft and other numerous friends in Sydney will use their best endeavours to persuade the owners of the vessels which, as I understand, are trading between Sydney and these islands to lose no opportunity of acquiring specimens of their natural productions. And I trust that the time may not be far distant when it may be possible to fit out a regular expedition for the investigation of this rich but hitherto comparatively neglected district.

2. On a very rare Parrot from the Solomon Islands.

By Dr. O. FINSCH, C.M.Z.S.

(Plate XI.)

Amongst the species of Parrots which are more or less obscure there is scarcely one rarer than the *Lori cardinal* of MM. Hombron and Jacquinot, which is only known by the figure published in the Atlas of Dumont-d'Urville's 'Voyage au Pôle Sud' (pl. 24 bis. fig. 2) in the year 1843. This plate represents a Lory belonging apparently to the subgenus *Eos*, Bp., being throughout of a brilliant scarlet, therefore an unmistakable species. The descriptive part of the zoology of the French voyage, published ten years later, by

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 278.



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DOMICELLA CARDINALIS.

M. Jacquinot and Dr. Pucheran, gives no further account of the *Lorius cardinalis* (page 103), except the short notice that the species comes from the Solomon Islands. If I am right, the only specimen collected by the French naturalists of the expedition was, unfortunately, lost by the shipwreck of the 'Astrolabe.' When I was working out my Monograph of Parrots, I therefore was not able to give more than a description taken from the figure in the voyage; all my endeavours to get better information were without success. A new beam of hope arose when I was reading Prof. Rietmann's 'Wanderungen in Australien und Polynesien' (St. Gallen, 1868), and found mentioned in that amusing and, in many respects, interesting book (page 194) "shining-red Parrots," which were offered for sale by the natives of Guadalcanar during the stay of the traveller on that island. In the belief that these Red Parrots could be nothing more than *Lorius cardinalis*, I wrote a letter to Prof. Reitmann begging for more special information. In his kind answer the traveller was sorry to say that he was not sure whether these Parrots were quite red or not, not having brought home specimens of them; so that our knowledge of the Cardinal Lory remained as imperfect as before.

During my recent visit to London Dr. Slater kindly showed me a very interesting collection of birds from the Solomon Islands, forwarded to him by Mr. Gerard Krefft of Sydney. This collection contained, besides two or three new species, most of the Parrots known from that group of islands, namely *Ptiliophus ducorpsi*, Hombr. et Jacq., *Pionias heteroclitus*, Hombr. et Jacq., *Domicella hypænochroa*, Gray (new to the Solomon Islands), and *Domicella chlorocerca*, Gould. Amongst them was a species of *Lorius*, which I, to my greatest pleasure and surprise, recognized immediately as the *Lorius cardinalis*, Hombr. et Jacq. A comparison with the plate shows some differences, in the specimen not being throughout of a brilliant scarlet, but having the upper parts decidedly brownish red and the feathers of the body beneath margined with pale orange-yellow. The latter peculiarity may be perhaps a sign of the specimen not being in mature state. The brilliancy of the colours in general has probably lost somewhat by the specimen having been preserved in spirits; but in any case one may say that the coloration of the plate in the 'Voyage au Pôle Sud' is too bright and a little exaggerated.

Concerning the generic position of this Parrot, it may be remarked that it belongs, according to coloration, along with *Domicella rubra*, Gm., *D. rubiginosa*, Bp., and the allied species, to the subgeneric division *Eos* of Prince Bonaparte. The shape of the bill, and the structure of the quills and tail-feathers, show a greater affinity to the so-called genus *Chalcopsitta*, Bp. (based upon *D. scintillata* and *D. atra*, Scop.), which is chiefly distinguished by a narrow, naked, black ring round the mandible, and more extended naked orbits.

Before describing this scarce specimen, I must remark that there are a few more Parrots of a more or less uniform red plumage, all being nearly, or entirely, unknown.